Forest Cover in M.P.

3696. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to indicate increase/decrease in the country's forest cover;

(b) if so, what are the details of these indications; and

(c) whether there has been an increase in forest cover in Madhya Pradesh due to large scale plantation of trees and if so, the area-wise, region-wise increase of forest cover in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir, Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country biennially using satellite data.

(b) As per latest assessment published by Forest Survey of India as State of Forest Report 1977, forest cover of the country has declined from 19.43% to 19.27% in the period from 1993 to 1995.

(c) As per latest State of Forest Report 1997, forest cover in Madhya Pradesh has declined from 30.48% to 29.60 in the period from 1993 to 1995.

ISM and Homoeopathy in the New Population Policy

†3697. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the main objective, outline and preface of the National Population Policy-2000 of India;

(b) whether the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy would be brought into mainstream under the operational strategies of National Population Policy-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the system-wise details of each of these systems; and

(e) the post-wise duties of medical and paramedical personnel attached with each of the systems i.e. Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (e) The National Population Policy, 2000 aims at the following objectives:

(i) The immediate objective of the National Population Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.